

"Nig" Clarke May Go to Kansas City---Griff Denies Flynn Sure to Play First Base

GRIFFITH MAY SEND CATCHER CLARKE TO KANSAS CITY CLUB

Nationals' Leader Wrathly Over Actions of Colonel Hedges.

DENOUNCES ST. LOUIS MAGNATE ROUNDLY

Says League Would Be Better Off Without Him.

By "SENATOR."

"Nig" Clarke, the catcher "wished" on the Washington ball club by the St. Louis Browns, will probably play next season with Kansas City.

As soon as the minor league magnates learned that Griffith would be forced to take the former Cleveland backstop, they started to make offers in case the Nationals could not use the man. After considering several of these proposals the manager here said today that he would probably notify Clarke to follow in the wake of "Doc" Gessler and play in the American Association.

"You may say for me that I am through with St. Louis so long as Mr. Robert Hedges is connected with the Browns. His actions I consider an absolute violation of the ethics of baseball and if there is further communication between here and St. Louis, the letters and telegrams will not be signed by me," declared Clark Griffith today as he discussed the case in which he was compelled to take a man he did not want or need.

"Never Again."

Hedges has pulled some trick of this sort on practically every other manager in the league, but he will never get another chance to work anything on me. When I wired Hedges seven weeks ago that I would refuse to waive on Clarke, I did it in the best of faith and that's more than he did in making me take the player.

"At the Chicago meeting I told Hedges that he could place Clarke with Kansas City, but instead of that he waited until he heard that I had gotten Williams as the third member of our catching staff. Then he put one over."

"I have written Sam Johnson telling him that the whole proceeding is against the spirit of the laws of the American League and that there is nothing equitable about it. The sooner the league gets rid of Hedges the better off it will be."

"The Browns are in their lowly position simply because of the work of Hedges, and they should stay there as long as they have their present president."

Hughes Drops In.

Tom Hughes dropped in to see Griffith, report on the progress of his injured digit, and express his anxiety to get down to real work. Hughes has removed all of the splints and bandages from the finger that was operated upon some weeks ago and is now working to remove the little swelling that remains.

"I have done more hard work this winter than in any off season in years, and feel fit. The doctors tell me that this finger will come around all right and if it does, your old uncle Tom will be there from the start," is the way the tall twirler looks at his chances in the approaching campaign.

While Griffith has placed scouts in several sections of the country, "Duke" Farrell, who worked for the Nationals last year, will not be one of these. It developed that one of the first things Johnny Kling did when he was signed as manager of the Boston Nationals was to grab up Farrell, who will go south to help out with the young catchers and pitchers, and after the opening of the regular games, start to scour the land for talent. Farrell will also act as sort of an assistant to Kling in about the same role as Monte Cross with the St. Louis Browns.

Len Stanley, the Washingtonian, who has had several years' experience in professional ball, will play with Rochester in the International League next season. Stanley was drafted from the Tri-State by the Philadelphia Nationals and was sold to Rochester when the latter club disposed of "Dolly" Gray, who was sold to Rochester by Griffith.

"Red" Is Holdout.

"Red" Callahan, who lugs the sticks for the Chicago Cubs, is a holdout. "Twenty-five Cent" Charlie Murphy has taken his case under consideration. "Lefty" George, wintering at York, Pa., is delighted over his escape from St. Louis, as well he might be. It's an agonizing place for a ball player—or others.

"Mass" John Henry and E. "Dorf" Alasmith are due to stroll down the Avenue about Friday afternoon, according to their friends here. Both backstops want to call on their friends before leaving for Charlottesville.

Tomorrow's Sports

Philadelphia Nationals leave for Hot Springs.

Men's lawn tennis singles, at Pinehurst.

Basketball, Columbia at Yale; Mt. St. Mary's at Pennsylvania State.

Clarence Fenus vs. Clarence Engleish, ten rounds, at Kansas City, Mo.

Joe Jeannette vs. Andy Morris, twelve rounds, at New Haven, Conn.

Meeting at Richmond, Va. to complete organization of South Atlantic Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Wrestling match, Henry Gehring and Mike Yokel, at Cleveland, for middleweight championship.

Annual meeting of the Canadian Cricket Association, at Toronto.

Packey McFarland vs. Tommy Maloney, ten rounds, at New York.

Herman Hazzem Awaits His Answer



GRIFF DENIES HE HAS PICKED FLYNN

Says Such Reports Are Misleading and Are False in Every Particular—Watching Derrick to Become Diamond Star.

By "SENATOR."

"Neither Flynn, Spencer, Knight, Schaefer, or anyone else has been assigned to first base by me on a tentative team, and any reports otherwise are misleading." This is the way Clark Griffith today disposed of the recurrent report that Flynn and McBride are the two men who have already been placed on the regular Washington lineup.

"I think I know as much about the four men as anyone in this town, and I will not be able to say who will be on first until after the close of the complete series of exhibition games, which ends one day before the opening of the regular season."

"Flynn was with Pittsburgh long enough, when I was in the National League for me to get a line on him. I have a pretty good idea of Spencer's style, and have seen Schaefer and Knight play many times. Despite all this, anyone who can today say who will be on first until after the close of the complete series of exhibition games, which ends one day before the opening of the regular season."

"That Schaefer, because of excellent hitting last season, will be given the preference in one of the outfield positions is taken for granted, but the placement of Knight appears to be almost entirely dependent upon the way Cunningham shows. If Cunningham demonstrates that he is fast enough for second base, the place is his, but otherwise Knight will be sent to the left of McBride. If Cunningham succeeds in consistently playing in the manner in which he has often performed in streaks, Knight will have two other places open, either first or third base, but which he will fill will be decided after all have been given a chance in the training camp."

Excepting to praise them, Griffith seldom discusses any of his players, but if Chief Scout Kahoe's judgment may be taken as a criterion, it will be Spencer who will be the dangerous starter in that race for first base. Spencer sets a high standard in field, so it is a question of his hitting as to whether he will be able to land.

One of the youngsters Connie Mack is watching closely at San Antonio, Tex., this spring is Claude Derrick, the lengthy infielder. This young man has reported eight pounds under weight, the result of hunting the wily rabbit around his domicile in Claxton, Ga. and Connie Mack is wondering whether he will be able to put on any weight in the warmth of Texas.

Derrick has hung around the White Elephants for a couple of years now, "nec coming out of the coal regions of Pennsylvania, without landing a regular job. In all this time, however, he has been picking up a few ideas needed

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JUMPING THE BUSH LEAGUE

By "SENATOR."

For several weeks Herman Hazzem, pride of the Ham Hollow circuit, waited. No reply.

For several weeks more Herman Hazzem, pride of the Ham Hollow circuit waited. Still no reply.

Slowly, but surely, hope fled from the heart of Herman, but Uncle Tom, Aunt Susie and Bill Smith, the apothecary man, never gave up.

"Oh, I suppose the man must be very busy, Herman, that's all," said Uncle Tom.

"He'll write you in a day or so," chimed in Aunt Susie. "He's probably thinking how much you want to play ball in the big league."

"Be Careful," Says Bill.

"Don't let the manager skin you," said Bill Smith, the apothecary man. "He'll probably want to have you play for two dollars a game, but don't let him do it. It's better to be playing here for shares in the collection and living at home with your folks than getting big money and living in hotels. I know, boy, for I was in Chicago once and they charged me a dollar a day just for my room, without anything to eat. I had to buy my meals separate."

"That's right, Herman," said Aunt Susie. "If you play with the Beacons in the Ham Hollow League, you can live at home, you know, and that'll be a great deal cheaper than in those hotels in the big league. Make him pay you at least three dollars a game and five dollars when you make a home run."

"Oh, he never would pay me five dollars every time I make a home run," blushing replied Herman. "They don't make that much money, even in the big league. Still, I wish he would hurry up and answer my letter."

It'll soon be time to play ball again and, if I don't hear from him soon, I'll join the Beacons."

"Perhaps the manager is hedging on the ticket on the railroad," put in Uncle Tom. "It costs a lot of money to go to the big city, you know, and perhaps he's waiting for you to say you'll pay your own fare. But don't you do it. I read in a Chicago paper the other day that the big league players get all their railroad fares paid for them. You make him do it for you."

"Perhaps the manager is looking up your record," said "Old Man" Grindle, the hay and grain man. "I've noticed a lot of strange letters in the postoffice lately. Perhaps he's writing to the managers in the Ham Hollow League for your record of last season. But you haven't a thing to be ashamed of. You explained beforehand all about that error. Only for that you would have a clean sheet. Still, those big league men want the best. They pay enough for it. I think you did well, though, to tell him about it before somebody else gave you a bad character."

Was a Sad Lad.

But Herman was a sad lad, just the same. He hung around the grocery store the whole day long, watching for the letter from the big league manager.

"If that letter doesn't get here by tomorrow night at 6 o'clock," he declared, finally, to Jasper Jackson, baggageman at the station, "I'll join the Beacons again."

We'll win the pennant again this year in the Ham Hollow League and perhaps then the big league men will be fighting for my services. A good .756 batter isn't found every day. Ty Cobb can't hit the ball that hard and he's supposed to be a star. Huh, I'd like to get just one chance in the big league. If I don't break all records for batting and fielding, I'll be willing to retire, even if I am only twenty years old."

Then Herman went home to do some chores for Aunt Susie.

(To Be Continued.)

Connie Mack Had The Best Argument

Connie Mack dropped a quiet little joke while he was stopping in St. Louis while en route for San Antonio from Philadelphia. He was talking with Billy Grayson, John Dovey and a number of scribes in the Planters Hotel, and the talk turned to Roger Salmon, the young twirler from Princeton, who surprised Roger Bresnahan among others by joining the Athletics instead of some other team.

"Why, I've got letters from Salmon's father, saying if he played ball this year he would be with Louisville," declared Grayson.

"Yes, and Roger Bresnahan has the same kind of letters," chimed in John Dovey.

"But I have Roger Salmon," replied Connie, which seemed to end the argument.

Pitcher Fanwell Goes To Smaller League

TOLEDO, Ohio, Feb. 26.—Pitcher Frank Fanwell, who was given a short trial by the Cleveland American League club, has gone down to the Connecticut League, being sold today by Manager Hartel. With him goes catcher Joe Walsh, infielder Sam McKline, and outfielder Kline. They will play with New Haven this year.

Ailing Naps to Undergo Showers of Electricity

Ailing Naps will have their aches and pains boiled out of them the coming season. There will be no long sieges of illness such as laid Cy Falkenberg out for a couple of months early last year. Falke had a cold on his chest that had fair to pilot him to the land where wings are continually fluttering. This year it will be different.

An electric company is building a cabinet for the diamond athletes. Any time a player complains of a cold it will be into the cabinet for him. The electric juice will be turned on, and it will not take long to boil the ailment out of him.

Vickers Calls New Bender "Turkey Trot"

Rube Vickers has a new bender and he calls it the "turkey trot." "Rube" says it's a sure thing to stop the steady increase of .300 hitters.

Morris vs. Jeannette.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 26.—Andy Morris, a "white hope" who has won several battles recently by way of the knockout route, will go up against a stiff proposition Wednesday night, when he meets Jeannette in a fifteen round go.

Amateur Commission Will Meet Tonight

Every player and fan interested in organized amateur baseball in Washington will be present at tonight's meeting of the local commission. Promptly at 8 o'clock, President Robert H. Young will call the meeting to order after which the affairs of the commission for the coming season will be thoroughly threshed out.

Among the most important matters to be disposed of this evening are the adoption of amendments to the present rules and constitution and the election of officers for the coming season.

Southern League Will Begin Work on April 11

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 26.—Hostilities in the Southern League will commence on April 11, the same day the big leaguers get down to business. Mobile will start at New Orleans, Montgomery at Birmingham, Chattanooga at Atlanta, and Nashville at Memphis. Two games will be played on the Fourth of July at Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham, and Chattanooga. The season will end on September 15.

Gets First Vacation.

John Heydler, a Washington man, and secretary of the National League, is enjoying his first vacation in three years scouting through some of the big league camps in Maryland. He'll also play some golf at Pinehurst.

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